



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Best Things

Tuesday, 24 February 2015

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CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

153rd General Assembly

- **TUESDAY @ 7:30 AM** in 403 CAP
- **TUESDAY @ 12 NOON** in 123 CAP

Capitol Commission Bible Studies are held Tuesday mornings at 7:30am and again at 12 Noon. The weekly Bible study is nonpartisan and non-denominational. The study for the 2015 General Assembly is the book of Philippians.

I pray that this study will be edifying to you. I am here to serve you and to be a resource for prayer and counsel. Please accept my study in the Word of God, as an evidence of my desire to be serving you. – Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission Bible Studies

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Philippians 4:1-9 – “The Best Things”

The angel of death who had said upon entering the plague-stricken city that he meant to kill ten thousand people, was accused on the way out of having slain forty thousand.

“I kept my word,” he answered. “I killed but ten thousand. Fear killed the rest!” [Marion Harland, *The Secret of a Happy Home* (New York: Christian Herald, 1896) 314].

Anxiety and worry is one of the greatest problems that we encounter in life. In a medical pamphlet, Dr. Charles Mayo (of the famous Mayo Clinic) remarked, “Worry affects the circulation, the heart, the glands, the whole nervous system and profoundly affects the health.”

Matthew 6:34 – So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

“Worry affects a man’s judgment, lessens his powers of decision, and renders him progressively incapable of dealing with life” (William Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew*, 2 vols. (Edinburgh: Saint Andrews Press, 1987) 1:259). Surely, it is a vote of no confidence for the believer to worry when the loving heavenly Father has promised to cause “all things to work together for good to those who love [Him], to those who are called according to His purpose” (Rom 8:28).

OUR DUTY AND PRIVILEGE

(Phil 4:1) Philippians 4 begins a new section with the general theme being “rejoicing in all things.” The word, “therefore,” beginning Philippians 4 would seem to indicate conclusion of the points made in the previous chapter. The best approach is to consider the relationship of 4:1 with the end of chapter 3 (i.e. “therefore” is *there for* a reason).

Scripture exhorts believers to “stand firm,” which would indicate that the primary subject of the epistle is reaching a conclusion. The primary reason for this epistle is to encourage the readers to rejoice in the Lord, and also to reassure the church with regard to God’s sovereign will. The believers also needed to be warned regarding false teaching both among and beyond the church.

PHILIPPIANS 4 WILL CONTINUE TO INDICATE THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE THAT GOD HAS FOR THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM.

The relationship of Philippians 4:1 to the previous chapter demonstrates the expectation and reality of the Lord’s return as motivation to live in a manner worthy of Him. Scripture contains many exhortations to “stand firm” and “stand fast” (e.g. 1 Cor 16:13; Gal 5:1; Eph 6:13-14; Col 4:12). The Epistle to the Philippians contains a threefold responsibility: (1) “press on” (3:13-14); (2) “walk” (3:17); and, “stand” (4:1).

COMMAND	IMPLICATION
“press on”	know the goal
“walk”	know the Lord
“stand”	know the provision

A relationship of trust with the Lord forms true strength, which the Holy Spirit uses beyond one’s ability. Moreover, as a result of the truth that Jesus will return, the church is to stand together (cf. “my joy and crown” with 1 Thess 2:19). The Apostle’s description of the church as his “joy and crown” is certainly not flattery for they had loyally supported his ministry (4:15-16). Philippians 4 will continue to indicate the best things in life that God has for those who trust in Him.

Capitol Commission Bible Studies

Tuesday (24 February) @ 7:30am – 8:00am, 403 CAP

Tuesday (24 February) @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 123 CAP

lunch provided from sponsorship by Faith Community Church, Woodstock



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The Best Things

HIS SUFFICIENT PROVISION

(Phil 4:2-9) Five blessings are indicated in Philippians 4 as being received by believers as God's sufficient provision, and for use in living the Christian life and for working together by the Lord's grace to his glory. The *first blessing* is peace among believers when they stand together. There were two individuals, Euodia and Syntyche, among the church who were not living "in harmony in the Lord" (4:2). The issues may have been personal or doctrinal, but regardless the entire church is urged "to help these women" (4:3).

"Harmony" (Gk. *phronsein*) is translated with several different English equivalents (1:7; 2:2, 5; 3:15-16, 19; 4:2, 10). The word indicates setting one's mind to be resolute concerning something; it can also mean to "live in harmony" (NASB). The idea is one of all believers standing together resolutely in Christ.

Philippians 2:5 – Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.

Believers are to have the attitude of Christ Jesus (2:5) in all things because the life and testimony of the entire church is always of utmost importance. Scripture often employs the metaphorical use of head and body (Eph 1:20-23). The head of the body is Christ, and every individual believer is a member of the body. The "head" works through the "body" to strengthen it for the purpose of edifying itself in love (4:15-16). In the physical realm, if the head is incapacitated, the body will experience paralysis. Therefore, the absolute necessity of depending upon Christ is evident; it is also true in the physical realm that all members of the body must work together in synergy (with the mental processes) or disorganization will result.

Whenever there is conflict among God's people, it is difficult to function as a healthy body of believers. A shared faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and even a similar desire to serve Him does not always result in the unification of the church. Peace will be reality when believers share the attitude "which was also in Christ Jesus." Having peace in one's mind, "maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose" (Phil 2:2) will produce peace among fellow believers. Peace of mind is the result of correct thinking. Wrongly focusing upon actions or words that result in strife must be resisted adamantly (2:4-5).

PEACE OF MIND IS THE RESULT OF CORRECT THINKING.

The *second blessing* is contentment. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (4:6). Prayer and the word of God is the source of true strength and the means to success. Contentment resides in the power of God, as believers adjust to circumstances. (We will consider the other three blessings in next week's Bible study.)

Paul said he knew how to adjust his life when he had little and when he had much. Employing military language ("God . . . will guard"), Scripture reminds believers that the Lord will have his peace take possession of their hearts and minds "in Christ Jesus" (4:7). If there is any doubt with regard to pursuing the best things in life, verses 8-9 give instruction for regulating one's life.

How to be Content in Life
1) Be anxious for nothing
2) Be prayerful for everything
3) Be thankful for anything

The godly virtues that are mentioned in Philippians 4:1-9 can be summarized with two words: excellent and praiseworthy. Excellence is what is best in every aspect of life: the philosophical *summum bonum* ("the highest good") for which every person should strive. Within the context of Philippians 4, the highest good is the ethical best that a believer can achieve in the Lord.

John 16:33 – [Jesus said,] "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

The things worthy of praise would reflect the best life that one can live for the Lord and the best reputation one can achieve among others. God promises his peace as we concentrate our thinking in this regard.

Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the honor to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.

About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission state ministers are pastors-missionaries who teach weekly verse-by-verse Bible studies for legislators, lobbyists, and staff members. The Bible studies are hand-distributed to each legislative office, emailed, and made available throughout the Capitol community. With the Bible as our foundation and authority, the mission of Capitol Commission is obedience to the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20) within the Capitol communities of the world.

Capitol Commission is not a lobbying group attempting to garner votes or reform society. Our mandate is to see the hearts and lives of elected officials transformed with the Word of God. Capitol Commission is a ministry of the church seeking to proclaim the gospel message, and to help believers mature through the verse-by-verse teaching of Scripture. In the Bible, we see God's great love for the world, especially for those who have been placed in authority. This is the foundation for our ministry to you.

The church is instructed to submit and to honor government leaders (Rom 13:1-7), and to pray for their eternal salvation (1 Tim 2:1-4). The desire of Capitol Commission is to witness God transform the hearts and lives of elected officials, lobbyists, and staff members. We apply this mandate to four major areas of making disciples: (1) *evangelize* those who have not experienced saving faith in Jesus Christ; (2) *establish* those who desire to grow in their faith and knowledge of Scripture; (3) *equip* those called to spiritual leadership; and, (4) *encourage* churches to participate with us in ministry.

Bible study luncheon sponsored by:



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**NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDIES:
TUESDAY, 3 MARCH @ 7:30AM in 403 CAP
and again (with lunch) @ 12 Noon in 123 CAP**